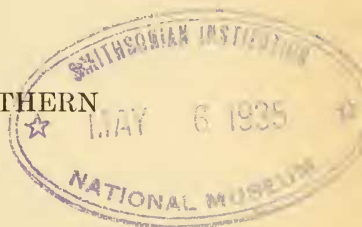


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

TWO NEW BIRDS FROM THE SOUTHERN
APPALACHIANS.

BY THOMAS D. BURLEIGH.



In working over a collection of breeding birds from the southern Appalachians, taken by the writer during the past five years while engaged in field work in that region, two unrecognized races were found. These are distinct enough to warrant subspecific recognition and are described below:

Nannus hiemalis pullus, subsp. nov.

SOUTHERN WINTER WREN.

Characters.—Similar to *Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*, but decidedly darker and less rufescent above, the underparts lighter brown, with the vermiculation of the abdomen and flanks heavier; wing longer; bill smaller and more slender.

Measurements.—Type (adult male): Wing, 49 mm.; tail, 29.5; exposed culmen, 10.5. Average of four adult males from western North Carolina: Wing, 48.8 mm.; tail, 30; exposed culmen, 10.8. Average of four adult females from western North Carolina: Wing, 46.5 mm.; tail, 28.4; exposed culmen, 10.7.

Type.—Adult male, No. 301275, United States National Museum, Biological Survey collection; Mount Mitchell, North Carolina, altitude, 6,500 feet, July 11, 1931; Thomas D. Burleigh, original number, 1,571.

Distribution.—Breeds in the Canadian Zone of the southern Appalachians from western North Carolina (probably Virginia), to northern Georgia,¹ occurring in winter at a lower altitude in this same region.

Remarks.—This southern race of the winter wren can always be easily recognized in either sex by its distinctly darker upper-parts, a characteristic common to other birds limited in their distribution to this general region. Even in worn breeding plumage this character is at once evident.

¹ Auk, vol. 42, 1925, p. 73.

Table of comparative measurements of the two eastern races of *Nannus hiemalis*:

	<i>hiemalis</i> ²	<i>pullus</i> ³
Wing.....	47.5 mm.	48.8 mm.
Tail.....	30.0	30.0
Exposed culmen.....	11.4	10.8

Specimens of *Nannus hiemalis pullus* examined: Total number, 8, from the following localities: North Carolina: Mount Mitchell, 5; Great Smoky Mountains, 2; Rocky Knob, 1.

***Certhia familiaris nigrescens*, subsp. nov.**

SOUTHERN CREEPER.

Characters.—Similar to *Certhia familiaris americana*, but crown and upper half of back distinctly darker, the prevailing color being fuscous black rather than sepia; primaries darker and approaching clove brown; tail more grayish (hair brown); russet of rump darker; underparts grayer.

Measurements.—Type (adult male): Wing, 68.8 mm.; tail, 64; exposed culmen, 13.7. Average of four adult males from western North Carolina: Wing, 66.7 mm.; tail, 62; exposed culmen, 13.6. Average of three adult females from western North Carolina: Wing, 62; tail, 57.1; exposed culmen, 13.6.

Type.—Adult male, No. 301577, United States National Museum, Biological Survey collection; Mount Mitchell, North Carolina, altitude, 6,600 feet, May 8, 1930; Thomas D. Burleigh, original number, 886.

Distribution.—Breeds in the Canadian Zone of the southern Appalachians from Pocahontas County, West Virginia (Cranberry Glades), to the Great Smoky Mountains in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee; winters at a lower altitude in this same region.

Remarks.—This southern race of the brown creeper is easily distinguished in fresh winter plumage by the lack of brown on the crown and upper half of the back. In worn breeding plumage this character is somewhat obscure, but the color of the tail, hair brown rather than pale brown as in *Certhia familiaris americana*, is readily diagnostic, as are the darker primaries. Breeding birds taken in June and July are so badly worn that accurate measurements could not be taken, but apparently there is no appreciable difference in size in the two eastern races.

Specimens of *Certhia familiaris nigrescens* examined: Total number, 13, from the following localities: North Carolina: Mount Mitchell, 3; Great Smoky Mountains, 4; Asheville (Bent Creek), 5. West Virginia: Pocahontas County (Cranberry Glades), 1.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to James L. Peters, Curator of Birds, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and to Dr. Herbert Friedmann, Curator of Birds, United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., for the loan of specimens used in comparison.

² 6 breeding males from Maine and New Hampshire.

³ 4 breeding males from western North Carolina.